

A thick, yellow, hand-drawn scribble that starts on the left and moves across the text, partially obscuring the letters 'L', 'E', 'T', and 'S'.

**LET'S  
TALK**

MALACHI 3:16

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**PRESS KIT**

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## **'Bishop Derek Grier Invites Faith Leaders to 'DC Talks' to Discuss Ongoing Racial Issues Banquet and Ongoing 'Let's Talk' Conversations Give Participants Chance to be Heard, Brainstorm Solutions**

**DUMFRIES, Va., Oct. 26, 2021** – Based on the biblical admonition in Malachi 3:16 that “those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard,” Bishop Derek Grier of Grace Church in northern Virginia is inviting pastors and faith leaders from across the nation to gather for a time of purposeful discourse to seek real and biblical solutions to the ongoing racial tensions plaguing our nation.

“If we can come together and actually speak and converse with one another rather than continuing to shout at one another, I believe the Lord will listen and we will see real change in our nation,” Bishop Grier said. “As such, I’m seeking to create an environment where multi-cultural Christian leaders from across the country can hear and be heard, share their disappointments and triumphs as it relates to race relations in America, and address critical race matters, as well as come up with practical solutions to the crisis.”

The conversations will begin with an initial “kick-off” banquet, DC Talks, to be held Nov. 17, 6-9 p.m., at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Barry Black, U.S. Senate Chaplain, will render the invocation and special guest speakers will include John Jenkins, National Association of Evangelicals Chairman; Don Kroah, Salem Radio Network host; Gordon Robertson, Christian Broadcasting Network CEO; Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) President; Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Macedonia International Bible Fellowship Presiding Bishop; and many more.

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Following the initial event, Christian leaders from across the United States will join together for regular monthly Zoom calls starting Tuesday, Dec. 7, to discuss race relations, develop practical solutions for the crisis, and build diverse relationships. These will be hosted by a team of trained facilitators to invite real dialogue, full participation and creative approaches to address the issues.

"Today's church is in a period of deep racial polarization. It is so easy for people to exist in environments where we only encounter beliefs and opinions that coincide with our own and thus become desensitized to the perspective of others," Bishop Grier explained. "I am convinced that many of the critical issues facing the church today could be resolved if we would just find the courage to create time to talk to one another directly, honestly, simply, and caringly about issues that matter most."

For more information, visit [www.letstalklive.org](http://www.letstalklive.org).

### **About Bishop Derek Grier**

Derek Grier currently serves as the founding pastor of Grace Church located just outside of Washington, DC, in Dumfries Va., which began in 1998 with 12 people and has today grown to more than 6,000 members. His passion for serving people led him to establish over 50 life-changing ministries within Grace Church. His radio and television programs can be heard and viewed by billions in the United States and around the globe. In 2011, he founded the now fully accredited Virginia Bible College, a world-class Christian learning institute which he currently serves as Chancellor. His latest release, "When God Stops," was published by Thomas Nelson Publishing in August of 2019. Derek and his wife, Yeromitou, reside in northern Virginia and have two adult sons, Derek Jr. and David.

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## Let's Talk Background

Today's church is in a period of deep racial polarization. People easily exist in environments where they only encounter beliefs and opinions that coincide with their own and thus become desensitized to the perspective of others. Believing that many of the critical issues facing the Church today could be resolved if people would just find the courage to create time to talk to one another directly, honestly, simply, and caringly about issues that matter most, the Let's Talk movement was started.

Based on the biblical admonition in Malachi 3:16 that "those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard," Bishop Derek Grier of Grace Church in northern Virginia hopes the Let's Talk movement will create an environment where Christian leaders can listen, be heard and discuss critical matters of race today.

Let's Talk is leading the charge in facilitating change by encouraging, equipping and engaging the Church in productive conversations. Let's Talk seeks to build awareness and relationships through regular events, including a "kick-off" banquet -- DC Talks -- at The Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C., on Nov. 17. Then, monthly Zoom Calls, hosted by an array of wise, trained facilitators, will begin on Dec. 7.

The purpose of the Let's Talk is to create an opportunity for evangelical leaders to talk about their pain, disappointments, and triumphs, as it relates to race relations in America, as well as come up with practical solutions to the crisis. The discussions will revolve around race relations as attendees develop practical solutions for the ongoing tensions plaguing the nation.

Let's Talk leaders have outlined four objectives the movement hopes to accomplish:

### Objectives

1. To help personalize and build awareness of the impact of racism.
2. To help build relationships between leaders from diverse racial backgrounds.
3. To implement strategies to help eradicate racism in today's church.
4. To elevate the Christ-centered church as key facilitators for racial unity and harmony.



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## **Let's Talk Statement of Change provides understanding on the Issues**

The Statement of Change was born out of a desire to help elevate the Christ-centered church as key facilitators for racial unity and harmony. The first step in addressing a problem is acknowledging it.

### **Racism**

The United States of America is a nation that has received tremendous favor and blessings from God but has embraced racial discrimination since its founding. The Three-Fifths Clause of the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788, normalizing Southern slavery. Though most of the Founding Fathers held Christian denominational affiliations, it was almost one hundred years later that the 13th amendment finally outlawed race-based slavery in 1865. It would be nearly another 100 years before all Jim Crow laws were struck down by the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Though laws have changed, pernicious and ungodly attitudes have stubbornly continued.

For the purposes of mutual understanding, we define racism as unfairness or antagonism against any person due to their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group. We recognize that sin in various forms will continue to exist in society at large and the church in general until Christ returns. However, after the pattern of our fathers (Acts 6:1-7, 10:1-48 and 15:1-35), we agree that racism is inconsistent with the heart of the Holy Spirit, teachings of scripture and purpose of the cross.

### **Social Justice**

God is both the Creator and the Judge of all people. As followers of Jesus Christ, we thus share His concern for justice and reconciliation throughout human society and for the liberation of men and women from every form of oppression. Because men and women are made in the image of God, every person, regardless of race, religion, color, culture, class, sex, or age, has an intrinsic dignity and should be respected and served, not exploited.

### **Cultural Imperialism**

We affirm and celebrate racial and cultural distinctions but disavow any presumed superiority of any culture over another. All cultural activities are to be evaluated in the light of ethical imperatives declared in scripture. We continue to affirm the age-old credo, in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things agape (Christian love).

### **Conclusion**

We acknowledge the historical pain suffered by ethnic minorities in the United States at the hands of practicing Christians and seek to further the process toward mutual understanding, forgiveness, and unity. We believe both the spirit and clear moral imperatives of scripture require the Christian community to lead the way in defeating racial bigotry.

## **Tentative Zoom Call Dates**

- December 7, 2021
- January 11, 2022
- February 8, 2022
- March 8, 2022
- April 11, 2022
- May 9, 2022
- June 14, 2022
- July 12, 2022
- August 9, 2022
- September 13, 2022
- October 11, 2022
- November 8, 2022

## **Meeting Agenda**

- Welcome and prayer
- 15-minute presentation on the topic for the call
- Breakout sessions
  - Self-Introductions
  - Ice Breaking Questions
  - Main Discussion Questions
  - High-level overview and Q & A
- Wrap up and Review



## **DEREK GRIER**

Bishop Derek Grier currently serves as the founding pastor of Grace Church in Dumfries, Virginia. In 1998, Grace Church began with 12 people and has grown to more than 6,000 members. Grier's passion for serving people led him to establish over 50 life-changing ministries within Grace Church. His radio and television programs can be heard and viewed by billions in the United States and around the globe.



**DEREK GRIER**

Grier was ordained a bishop in 2008 by the late Dr. Myles Munroe. Today, he mentors hundreds of Christian leaders and business owners through the Renaissance Leadership Network (RLN). Grier serves on several boards - including the Board of Directors for the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate standards for financial accountability and transparency. He has also been an associate trainer for Equip, founded by John Maxwell. Bishop Grier's uncompromising approach to preaching and teaching the gospel has helped him lead Grace Church in phenomenal growth. In 2013, Outreach Magazine listed Grace Church as one of the fastest growing churches in the nation and among the top 100 fastest growing of all churches. In 2014, Grace was listed in Outreach Magazine's annual "100 Fastest Growing Churches in America" as the 7th fastest growing church in the United States.



In 2011, Grier founded the now fully accredited Virginia Bible College, a world-class Christian learning institute. He holds the role of Chancellor and Dr. Courtney McBath is the President. Grier studied business administration at Howard University and earned a Master of Education degree from Regent University. He obtained a Doctorate in Practical Ministry from Wagner University. He received his first honorary doctorate from Beulah Heights University, one of the oldest seminaries in the U.S. Grier has also received an honorary doctorate from Virginia Bible College, where he serves as Chancellor. He has received numerous awards and was honored in the United States Congressional Record on several occasions.

Bishop Grier is often asked to address elite military and governmental agencies. He is regularly sought out by political leaders from both sides of the political aisle. He is the author of several books, including his latest release, *When God Stops*, published by Thomas Nelson Publishing in August of 2019.

Grier and his wife, Yeromitou, reside in northern Virginia and have two adult sons: Derek Jr. and David.

**"VICTORY IS ALREADY  
YOURS THROUGH JESUS  
CHRIST"**

- Derek Grier



- **Kimberly Alexander** – Director, Ramp School of Ministry, Honorary Research Fellow, Manchester Wesley Research Centre | <http://www.mwrc.ac.uk/kimberly-alexander>
- **Sam Chand** – President Emeritus, Beulah Heights University | CEO, Dream Releasers | Atlanta, Georgia | <https://www.samchand.com/about-sam>
- **Erika Cole** – Founding Partner of The Law Offices of Erika E. Cole LLC | Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law and Loyola College of Maryland: MBA Program | Maryland | <https://churchattorney.com>
- **Otoniel Font** – Pastor, Fuente de Agua Viva Church | Orlando Florida & Puerto Rico | [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cccq8E00\\_bT1Nhf5h3iC9NbNHqV9NVr3/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cccq8E00_bT1Nhf5h3iC9NbNHqV9NVr3/view?usp=sharing)
- **Derek Grier** – Chancellor, Virginia Bible College | Board of Directors ECFA, Evangelical Committee for Financial Accountability | Pastor, Grace Church | Dumfries, Virginia | <https://gracechurchva.org/leaders>
- **Richard Hilton** – Board Certified Pastoral Counselor (I.B.C.C. & A.A.C.C.) | Founding Pastor of Calvary Church | Elizabethton, Tennessee | [Richard \(richardlhilton.com\)](http://richard.richardlhilton.com)
- **John Jenkins** – Chairman of National Association of Evangelicals | Pastor, First Baptist Church of Glenarden | Glenarden, Maryland | <https://fbcglenarden.org/our-pastor/>
- **Don Kroah** – Host, The Don Kroah Show, WAVA Radio | Pastor, Plymouth Haven Baptist Church | Washington, DC | <https://wava.com/content/all/don-kroah-bio>
- **Courtney McBath** – President, Virginia Bible College, Dumfries, Virginia | Pastor, Calvary Revival Church | Norfolk, Virginia | <https://crcglobal.org/about-crc/founding-pastors/>
- **Janeen McBath** – CEO/President of House of Esther Organization, Co-Pastor of Calvary Revival Church | Norfolk, Virginia | [www.houseofestherorganization.org](http://www.houseofestherorganization.org)
- **Michael Pitts** – Founding Pastor | Corner Stone Church, Overseer | Cornerstone Global Network, Toledo, Ohio | [About - Michael Pitts](#)
- **Gordon Robertson** – President and CEO – CBN Television Network | Virginia Beach, Virginia | <https://www1.cbn.com/gordon-robertson>
- **Samuel Rodriquez** – Pastor, New Season Christian Worship Center, President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference | Sacramento, California | [About | Pastor Samuel Rodriguez](#) <https://pastorsam.com/about/>
- **Dennis Rouse** – Lead and Founding Pastor, Victory World Church | Teacher on Leadership, Discipleship and How to Build a Racially Reconciled Church | Norcross, Georgia | <https://10qualities.com/dennisrouse/>
- **Frank Santora** – President of Faith Ministries and Faith Preparatory Schools | Founding Pastor, Faith Church, New York, NY | [FAITHCHURCH.CC](http://FAITHCHURCH.CC) | [Team](#) | [FrankSantora.cc](http://FrankSantora.cc) : [HOME](#)
- **Kenneth Ulmer** – Adjunct Professor and Dean of The King's at Oxford University | Pastor, Faithful Central Bible Church | Inglewood, California | <https://www.faithfulcentral.com/about-us/bishop-kenneth-ulmer>

Name	Organization
Dr. Daniel Alvarez	Pentecostal Theological Seminary, VA
Rev. Nina Anderson	New Life Church, VA
Jessica Datsko	CBN Network, VA
Damon Davis	Legacy Worldwide, GA
Nathalie Davis	Legacy Worldwide, GA
Dr. Darin Early	Loyola Marymount University, CA
Pastor Jim Eaton	Mosaic Christian Church, MD <input type="checkbox"/>
Pastor Yusef Fletcher Sr.	Faith City Church, MD
Dr. Nick Garza	National Hispanic Leadership Conference
Pastor Rod Hairston	Messiah Community Church, MD
Alesia Hill	CBN Network, VA
Omar Jackson	Calvary Revival Church, VA
Pastor Lee Jenkins	Eagles Nest Church, GA
John Jessup	CBN Network, DC
Pastor Rob Ketterling	River Valley Church, MN



<b>Pastor Luke McDonald</b>	<b>Good News in the Neighborhood, IL</b>
<b>Min. Ephraim McKenzie</b>	<b>Unity Church of Jesus Christ, PA</b>
<b>Bishop Van Moody</b>	<b>The Worship Center, Birmingham, AL</b>
<b>Pastor Jody Moore</b>	<b>Transformation Church, CA</b>
<b>Dr. Lois Olena</b>	<b>Assemblies of God Seminary, MS</b>
<b>Pastor David Osborne</b>	<b>Calvary Revival Church, VA</b>
<b>Pastor Lydia Osborne</b>	<b>Calvary Revival Church, VA</b>
<b>Pastor David Porter</b>	<b>Life House Church, online</b>
<b>Rev. Girien Salazar</b>	<b>National Hispanic Leadership Conference</b>
<b>Pastor Brandon Shank</b>	<b>Palms Church, VA</b>
<b>Pastor Jeff Smith</b>	<b>Strong Tower Church, VA</b>
<b>Dr. Tony Suarez</b>	<b>National Hispanic Leadership Conference</b>
<b>Bishop Patrick O. Thomas</b>	<b>Christian Cultural Center, VA</b>
<b>George Thomas</b>	<b>CBN Network, VA</b>
<b>Roberto Torres-Cedilio</b>	<b>CBN Network, VA</b>
<b>Natasha Watson</b>	<b>ELOHAI International Publishing &amp; Media</b>
<b>Pastor Deborah Williams</b>	<b>Cornerstone New Life, MD</b>
<b>Pastor Scott Wilson</b>	<b>Red Oaks Church, TX</b>

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- What is the Let's Talk movement's primary goal?
  - Who is able to participate in the Let's Talks Zoom meetings?
  - Why is it important for Christian leaders to engage in conversations surrounding the topic of race?
  - How can churches and the Christian community make steps toward reconciliation?
  - Who is able to attend the DC Talks banquet at the Museum of the Bible?
  - Can you tell us about the structure of the Let's Talk Zoom calls and what participants can expect?
  - What are the main topics/areas of discussion that are going to be covered by Let's Talk?
  - Are the Let's Talk Zoom calls only for Christians or can anyone attend?
  - What was your primary motivation in launching DC Talks and the Let's Talk movement?
  - Which notable persons might attendees expect to see at DC Talks?